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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.

RECENT USSR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS AND ANTIBIOTICS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Subsequent⁴ to World War II, the Laboratory of Experimental Chemotherapy of Infectious Diseases (director, F. S. Khanenya) of the All-Union Chemicopharmaceutical Scientific Research Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikide concentrated on work aimed at finding new prophylactic and therapeutic agents effective against intestinal infections, particularly bacillary dysentery. After the synthesis of over 500 new compounds in the course of research extending over approximately one year, a very effective synthetic antibiotic, synthomycin, was found. This antibiotic is now being produced and used clinically⁵ in the treatment of bacillary dysentery.(1)

The phytoncides (antibiotics derived from higher plants) which have been discovered by Prof V. P. Tonkin are also being used clinically against bacillary dysentery. Phytoncides were also found effective against typhoid and other intestinal microorganisms with the notable exception of *Bacillus coli*, which has become adapted to phytoncides contained in food products. Other diseases treated with this class of substances included inflammation of the middle ear, trichomonadic colpitis, lesions, and ulcers. In the treatment of lesions and ulcers of soft tissues which did not heal readily, the volatile substances and juices of onion were used. In view of the fact that phytoncides kill microorganisms and fungi, the possibility of using them for the preservation of food products was investigated.

Malignant tumors (including those of the lymphatic system of the throat), lymphatic leukemia, myelitic leukemia, and lymphogranulomatosis are being successfully treated with the new remedy Embikhin.⁽²⁾

An expedition of the Chemicopharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze has recently returned from Central Asia and Altay with about 80 samples of botanical drugs active against worms, cancer, tuberculosis, furunculosis, hemorrhages of the womb, hypertension, asthma, lesions, etc. Samples of the

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curare-like drug "zhivokost'" were obtained, as were a series of drugs used by the native population to treat cancer. The anticancer drugs include the only known species of the botanical genus *Cynomorium*, *C. coccineum*, a plant of which 20 kg were brought for investigation, and the common weed "osot."(3)

On the basis of work done at the laboratory of the Khar'kov Chemicopharmaceutical Scientific Research Institute toward finding a domestic substitute for strophanthin, the glycoside corglycon was isolated from leaves of the lily of the valley and tested clinically. Solutions of this powerful cardiotonic agent are used intravenously. For the past 3 years, corglycon has been used at the Khar'kov Clinical Hospital No 2 and was found to be very effective.(4)

At the initiative of the Chair of Ophtalmology of the Academy of Military Medicine imeni Kirov at Leningrad, the Leningrad Chemicopharmaceutical Scientific Research Institute synthesized about 3 years ago a purely domestic miotic named Furamon. Experience acquired in using Furamon for the treatment of glaucoma demonstrated that this substance is in no way inferior to pilocarpine, eserine, or proserine, but in some cases even surpasses them.(5)

A short time ago, clinical testing of the new drug Furacylin [possibly furacin or a related compound] was begun in Moscow. Results obtained at the Surgical Clinic of the First Order of Lenin Medical Institute (director, Prof I. G. Rufanov) and the Institute imeni Sklifosofskiy indicate that Furacylin is very effective in the treatment of variously located acute abscessed infections and suppurating wounds. This checks with results reported from Latvia. The Pharmacological Committee of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health USSR has authorized the release of Furacylin.(6)

The construction and equipment of a new production department for the manufacture of p-aminosalicylic acid has been recently completed at the "Akrikhin" chemicopharmaceutical plant.(7)

Clinical testing of a new substitute for Peruvian balsam has been completed. The new preparation is a [poly] vinyl-butyl ether named Vinylin or Shostakovskiy's balsam. It replaces satisfactorily imported Peruvian balsam and in some respects has a therapeutic effect which is even superior to that of the latter. Vinylin is used internally for gastric and intestinal diseases (ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, hemocolitis, gastritis accompanied by high acidity) and externally whenever the anesthetizing, disinfectant, and astringent actions of the preparation are of advantage. The Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health USSR has approved special instructions on the use of Shostakovskiy's balsam which have been published by the Central Pharmaceutical Scientific Research Institute.(8)

In view of the emphasis being placed at present on the role of the nervous system in somatic diseases, Prof A. Berlin (Ivanovo), Honorary Physician of the RSFSR considers it appropriate that more attention be paid in the USSR to the use and development of therapeutically active substances containing bromine. Berlin points out that there are practically no experimental pharmaceutical data in connection with the intravenous application of bromine derivatives, although clinicians have already started to use this type of treatment. He is of the opinion that calcium bromide, which has been found effective in the clinical treatment of tuberculosis, is of particular value (although, he continues, it is not always available at pharmacies, which also applies to sodium bromide), and suggests that standard solutions of bromine preparations for injection packed in ampules and tablets of bromine derivatives be supplied. Berlin stated that in developing new remedies containing bromine, one must bear in mind Bromural, Ekzebrom (strontium bromide + dextrose), and Ektobrom (sodium bromide + calorse), and furthermore endeavor to develop still more effective bromine preparations.(9)

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SOURCES

1. Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, Vol XIII, 2 Nov 50, No 44 (908), p 4; ibid., 23 Nov 50, No 74 (911), p 4
2. Ibid., 2 Nov 50, No 44 (908), p 4.
3. Ibid., 14 Dec 50, No 50 (914), p 4.
4. Ibid., 2 Nov 50, No 44 (908), p 4.
5. Ibid., 7 Sep 50, No 36 (900), p 4.
6. Ibid., 2 Nov 50, No 44 (908), p 4.
7. Ibid., 14 Dec 50, No 50 (914), p 1.
8. Ibid., p 3.
9. Ibid., p 4.

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